

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to welcome you to the Consulate General of France for our 29th edition of *Conferences@934*. It has been three years now that this French-American series of debates is contributing – we hope – to the exchange of ideas between our two countries. Since last September, when I took up my position as Consul General in New York, I have seen how well appreciated our conferences are, and I wish to thank our loyal audience, as well as those who are joining us today for the first time. I also invite you all to continue to follow us next year, for a program which will keep on nourishing this French-American dialogue through its richness and diversity.

As our previous conference dealt with the questions of terrorism and counter-terrorism in the Sahel region, today's discussion, organized jointly with the Alliance Program at Columbia University, will be on the topic of immigration and integration. France and the United States are two lands of immigration, the communities of which play an important role in our history, culture, society, and of course, in our economy. On the other hand, both countries hold different policies when it comes to immigration and integration models.

We are fortunate to have Muzaffar Chishti and Ariane Chebel d'Appollonia with us tonight, for a cross-analysis of our respective policies. Muzaffar, you are currently the director of the Migration Policy Institute's office at the New York University School of Law. Your work focuses on U.S. immigration policy and immigrant integration. You studied Law, and thus focused your interest on the intersection between labor and immigration laws, and upon civil liberties. You are also very active, holding various positions only a few of which I will mention here: you serve on the board of directors of the National Immigration Law Center, the New York Immigration Coalition, and the Asian-American Federation. You were also honored in 1994 with the New York State Governor's Award for Outstanding Asian Americans, and are a 1995 recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

I would also like to thank Professor Ariane Chebel d'Appollonia for accepting our invitation tonight. Ariane, you have held teaching positions both in Paris and in the United States, in New York and Pittsburg, and now at the Rutgers University School of Public Affairs and

Administration, in New Jersey. You also graduated from an establishment I am all too familiar with, *Sciences-Po Paris*, where you received your Ph.D. and are currently a Senior Researcher at the Institute's Center for Political Research. You are a specialist on the questions of immigration, discrimination and security, and have published five books, as well as co-edited two others, on these topics. During this evening's discussion, I believe you will be bringing up many points from your most recent publication, *Frontiers of Fears: Immigration and Insecurity in the United States and Europe*, as well as the question of securing migration and integration policies, especially after September 11.

Before we begin, allow me to recall the format of these conferences. Each speaker will talk for about fifteen minutes. This introduction will be followed by a half-hour of Q&A. We will close this session at around 7:45 p.m. and continue the conversation over a drink. You may find tonight's photos, video and audio recording on our website as of tomorrow.

With no further delay, I hand over the microphone to Ariane. Have a nice evening.